



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Historic Preservation Office

468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
Voice: (334)242-3184
Fax: (334)262-1083
www.preserveala.org

ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

WHAT IS THE ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER?

It is the state's official list of historic cemeteries in Alabama. The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) considers historic cemeteries particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition.

HOW WILL THIS DESIGNATION AFFECT THE PROPERTY OWNER?

This designation serves to increase awareness of the site in hopes that it will be preserved. The designation neither restricts the current or future property owner, nor does it require that a landowner maintain the cemetery. However, state law protects all cemeteries from willful destruction, regardless of age or historic designation. State law also provides a legal process for all cemetery relocations.

IS THERE MONEY AVAILABLE FOR CEMETERIES THAT ARE LISTED ON THE REGISTER?

The AHC is not aware of any funding available for cemetery preservation or maintenance.

ARE HISTORICAL MARKERS AVAILABLE FOR CEMETERIES LISTED ON THE CEMETERY REGISTER?

Historic designation is a prerequisite to purchasing an Alabama Historical Cemetery Marker or Plaque that features the state cemetery seal. A separate application process is required for a marker or plaque.

HOW CAN I NOMINATE A CEMETERY TO THE CEMETERY REGISTER?

To receive this designation, applicants must complete a series of forms that documents the cemetery's age, location, condition, type, and historical background. Good quality photographs (non-Polaroid) of representative grave markers and overall views of the cemetery are also required. The AHC accepts 35mm or digital prints (at least 3" x 5") or high-resolution digital images on CD. Polaroid pictures will not be accepted. Please label the back of each photograph with the name of the cemetery and the county. All documentation and photographs will become the property of the Alabama Historical Commission and will not be returned.

**To request a cemetery register application or for more information,
please contact:**

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Lee Anne Wofford
468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
(334)230-2659; Fax: (334)262-1084
leeanne.wofford@preserveala.org





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Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Application

Historic Name of Cemetery: _____

Common/Alternate Name: _____

Preferred Name for Cemetery Certificate: ☐ Historic ☐ Common/Alternate

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

A letter announcing the listing and the certificate will be sent to the applicant above unless otherwise noted below:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ County _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email: _____

NOTICE: Notification will be sent to the local governing body (city council or county commission) county historical/genealogical societies; and the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, Inc. A press release will be sent out to the appropriate news outlets announcing the new cemetery register listing. If you **DO NOT** want the AHC to send this notification, please sign below:

Signature _____

For Official Use Only

AHC Cemetery Number: _____

in county: _____

#in state: _____

____ Not for Publication



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I. Historic Cemetery Main Form

Historic Name: _____ Common Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ Proximity to Town: ☐ Within town limits ☐ Within 1 mile ☐ 1-5 miles ☐ 5 or more miles

Directions to cemetery from nearest town: _____

Township/Range/Section: _____ - _____ - _____ Quadrangle Sheet (USGS) _____

GPS Coordinates: Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Tax Map (if available): _____

Historic Atlas of Alabama: Volume 2, Cemetery Locations by County Number (available from AHC): _____

Deed Reference (If known, provide deed information (volume, page, signing date) as to the ownership of the land from which the cemetery was set aside.) _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Address: _____

Email: _____

Person filling out form: _____ Date: _____

Complete all sections; write N/A if a section does not apply

1. Dates of burials: Oldest _____ Most recent: _____
2. Approximate number of marked graves: _____ unmarked graves: _____
3. Threats to cemetery: _____
4. Does a burial listing exist? ☐ Yes (location: _____) ☐ No ☐ Unknown
5. Cemetery Access: ☐ Public access ☐ Private property
6. Primary Access: ☐ Walk ☐ Drive Distance from nearest road: _____
7. Is the cemetery still active? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
8. Type:
☐ Community ☐ Family ☐ Hospital ☐ Memorial Park ☐ Military ☐ Municipal ☐ Pet ☐ Potter's Field
☐ Prison ☐ Religious ☐ Other: _____
9. Condition (all that apply):
☐ Maintained ☐ Not maintained ☐ Partially maintained ☐ Neglected/Forgotten ☐ Overgrown
☐ Trash/Dumping Ground ☐ Evidence of vandalism
☐ Other: _____
10. Size: ☐ City Lot ☐ Less than 1 acre ☐ 1 to 10 acres ☐ 10 to 50 acres ☐ More than 50 acres
11. Setting: ☐ Rural-Undisturbed ☐ Rural-Developed ☐ Small town ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban
12. Perimeter: ☐ Fence (type: _____) ☐ Wall ☐ Vegetation ☐ Road(s) ☐ Vacant Land
☐ Buildings ☐ Other: _____

I. Historic Cemetery Main Survey Form—Page 2

13. Evidence of Segregation or Grouping by:

- ☐ Race ☐ Religion ☐ Family ☐ Military ☐ Occupation ☐ Fraternal organization ☐ Socio-economics
☐ Gender ☐ None ☐ Other: _____

14. Orientation of Graves:

- ☐ East-West ☐ North-South ☐ Toward central monument ☐ Toward a river ☐ Toward road
☐ Other: _____

15. Marker Types (check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> above-ground tomb | <input type="checkbox"/> box tomb | <input type="checkbox"/> column | <input type="checkbox"/> comb grave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> coping/curbing/cradles | <input type="checkbox"/> foot stone | <input type="checkbox"/> headstone | <input type="checkbox"/> ledger stone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> obelisk | <input type="checkbox"/> rock cairn | <input type="checkbox"/> statuary | <input type="checkbox"/> tablet stone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | |

16. Veterans Gravestones:

- ☐ American Revolutionary War ☐ War of 1812 ☐ Civil War (Union) ☐ Civil War (Confederate);
☐ Spanish American War ☐ World War I ☐ World War II ☐ Korean War ☐ Vietnam War
☐ Operation Desert Storm ☐ Operation Enduring Freedom ☐ Operation Iraqi Freedom ☐ Other: _____

17. Marker Designs (check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All-seeing Eye | <input type="checkbox"/> Anchor | <input type="checkbox"/> Angel | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross | <input type="checkbox"/> Draped Urn | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand reaching down | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand with finger point up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart | <input type="checkbox"/> Lamb | <input type="checkbox"/> Masonic | <input type="checkbox"/> Menorah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Child | <input type="checkbox"/> Star/ Star of David | <input type="checkbox"/> Weeping Willow | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Motifs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | |

18. Grave Articles:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bedsteads | <input type="checkbox"/> bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> ceramic objects | <input type="checkbox"/> clocks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dolls/toys | <input type="checkbox"/> flowers/plastic flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> flower pots/vases | <input type="checkbox"/> jars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lamps | <input type="checkbox"/> light bulbs | <input type="checkbox"/> marbles | <input type="checkbox"/> medicine bottles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pinwheels | <input type="checkbox"/> milk jugs/plastic bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> plates | <input type="checkbox"/> sea shells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> none | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | | |

19. Associated Historic Buildings/Communities/Neighborhoods: _____

20. Landscape Features:

- ☐ casual and unplanned ☐ designed plantings ☐ designed drives and walks
☐ designed fencing and walls ☐ informal/ picturesque ☐ terracing/contouring
☐ other: _____

21. Ornamental Plantings/Historic Vegetation: _____

22. Additional Descriptions: _____



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2. Historic Cemetery Map Form

Name of Cemetery: _____
Map _____ of _____


Map Option 1: Sketch a map of the cemetery. This can be a general overview map OR a detailed map of every burial. Label roads and other features. Draw an arrow indicating north. See reverse side for the most popular symbols if drawing each individual burial.

Map Option 2: Attach a portion of a county map, USGS map, or other map with the precise location of the cemetery clearly marked.

[illegible]


2. Historic Cemetery Map Survey Form—Page 2

The following are a list of symbols for the most popular marker types. If you must create a new symbol, please create a key with the symbol and what it represents.


Above Ground Tomb 

Box Tomb 


Comb Grave 

Headstone 

Ledger Stone 

Monument 

Rock Cairn 


Statuary 


Tablet Stone 

Foot Stone 


Missing Tablet Stone 

Missing Foot Stone 

Coping/Curbing/Cradle 

Column 

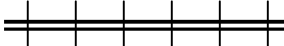
Obelisk 

Grave shelter 

Depression 

Mounded Grave 

Flush Stone 

Fence Wall 

Tree 

Military Veteran 



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3. Historic Significance Cemetery Survey Form

Name of Cemetery: _____

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. The cemetery derives its importance from: (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Important Person(s) buried on site | <input type="checkbox"/> Stone Carver | <input type="checkbox"/> Monument Manufacturer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Designer/Architect | <input type="checkbox"/> Military Significance | <input type="checkbox"/> Unique Burial Practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unique Grave Markers | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Broad Pattern in History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Family |

2. In a narrative statement, provide a brief history of the cemetery. Include any biographical/genealogical information about persons buried there or any relevant history on a church, community, etc. nearby. Attach additional sheets/documentation if necessary. Burial listings will be accepted.

3. Dates of Significance (first burial, burial of significant person/family, date of last burial, etc):

4. Bibliographical Sources: